

Specification

The previous amendments submitted with the Amendment filed on March 8, 2004 have NOT been resubmitted. The Examiner refused entry of the amendment as filed in its entirety. In addition, the Examiner had an opportunity to enter the amendments to the drawings and/or the specification but did not enter these amendments. Further, Applicant submits that the cancellation of claims 1-6 and 8-10 has rendered any previously necessary amendments moot.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to due to the presence of alleged minor informalities. This objection is traversed. Applicant had previously filed a replacement, formal drawing that specifically addressed the Examiner's requested changes. The Examiner has apparently decided not to enter this amendment. However, in light of the cancellation of claims 1-6 and 8-10, Applicant submits that the Examiner's objection to the drawings is rendered moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection, although improper, has been obviated and/or rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 10.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuzaka (Japanese Patent Document No. JP 3-96693) in view of Altstadt et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,776). Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuzaka in view of Altstadt et al., and further in view of Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,544,334). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Applicant submits that claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been cancelled. Accordingly, this application should immediately be allowed and passed to Issue.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

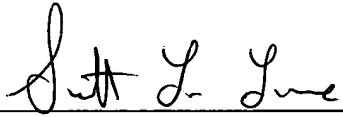
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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